

Amendments to the Claims

and

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended.

Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claim 11 has been added.

1. (currently amended) A catalytic converter for cleaning exhaust gas comprising a first coating layer formed on a heat-resistant support, and a second coating layer formed on the first coating layer,

wherein the first coating layer contains alumina which supports palladium, ~~and~~
~~wherein~~ the second coating layer contains Ce-Zr complex oxide which coexistently carries platinum and rhodium, and Zr-Ce complex oxide which differs in composition from the Ce-Zr complex oxide and which coexistently carries platinum and rhodium, and
the first coating layer additionally contains Ce-Zr complex oxide which does not carry any precious metal.

2. (original) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1,
wherein the Ce-Zr complex oxide is represented by the following general formula:



in the formula (1), M represents a rare earth element other than Ce and Zr or an alkaline earth metal, z represents the degree of oxygen deficiency determined by the valence and proportion of the contained element M, $0.25 \leq 1 - (x+y) \leq 1.0$, $0 \leq x \leq 0.55$, and $0 \leq y \leq 0.2$; and

wherein the Zr-Ce complex oxide is represented by the following general formula:



in the formula (2), N represents a rare earth element other than Ce and Zr or an alkaline earth metal, c represents the degree of oxygen deficiency determined by the valence and proportion of the contained element N, $0.55 \leq 1 - (a+b) \leq 1.0$, $0 \leq a \leq 0.45$, and $0 \leq b \leq 0.2$.

3. (currently amended) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein the second coating layer has a surface layer portion which coexistently carries platinum and rhodium in addition to platinum and rhodium supported on the Ce-Zr complex oxide and the Zr-Ce complex oxide.
4. (currently amended) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein the second coating layer has a surface layer portion which carries one of platinum and rhodium alone in addition to platinum and rhodium supported on the Ce-Zr complex oxide and the Zr-Ce complex oxide.
5. (previously presented) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein the first coating layer additionally contains barium salt of an inorganic acid.
6. (previously presented) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein the first coating layer supports 30~100g of alumina and 0.5~8.0g of palladium per liter of the heat-resistant support.
7. (currently amended) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein the Ce-Zr complex oxide in the second coating layer carries a total amount of 0.3~3.0g of platinum and rhodium per liter of the heat-resistant support, and ~~wherein~~ the Zr-Ce complex oxide in the second coating layer carries a total amount of 1.0~3.0g of platinum and rhodium per liter of the heat-resistant support.
8. (currently amended) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 3 [[1]], wherein the surface layer portion of the second coating layer carries a total amount of 0.05~2.0g of platinum and rhodium per liter of the heat-resistant support.
9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The exhaust gas cleaning catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein the second coating layer additionally contains alumina which does not support any precious metal.

11. (new) A catalytic converter for cleaning exhaust gas comprising a first coating layer formed on a heat-resistant support, and a second coating layer formed on the first coating layer, wherein the first coating layer contains alumina which supports palladium, the second coating layer contains Ce-Zr complex oxide which coexistently carries platinum and rhodium, and Zr-Ce complex oxide which differs in composition from the Ce-Zr complex oxide and which coexistently carries platinum and rhodium, and the second coating layer additionally contains alumina which does not support any precious metal.